

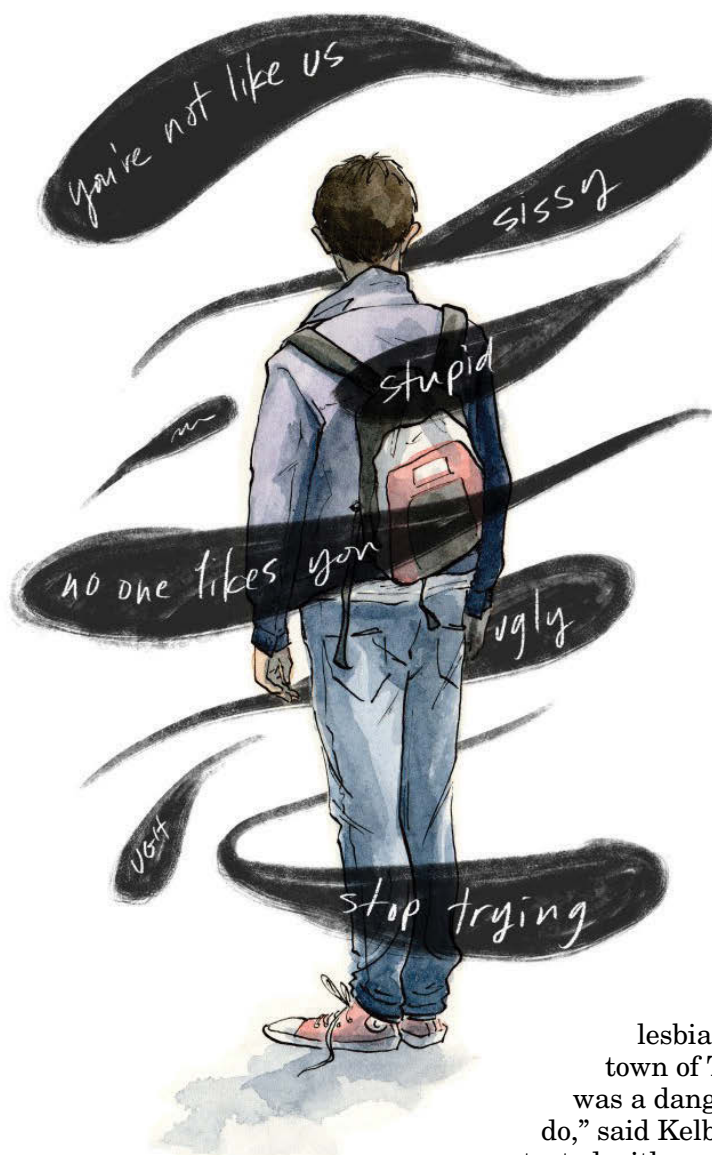


the BULLYING EFFECT

By MARIANNE NACANAYNAY, age 12



Illustrations by KIT MILLS



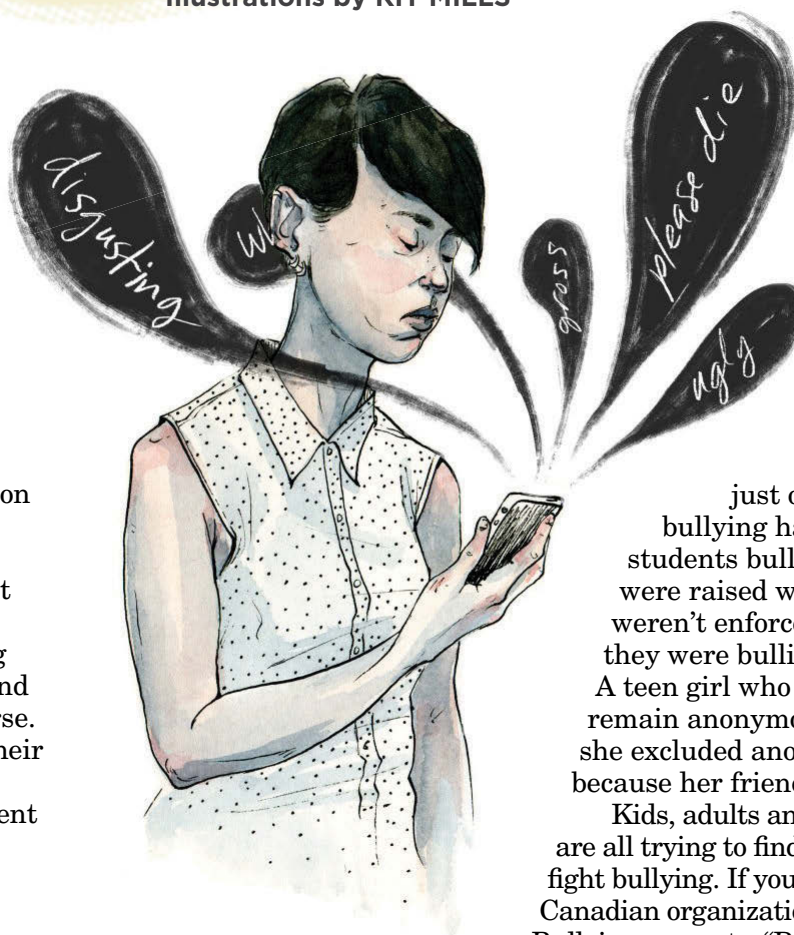
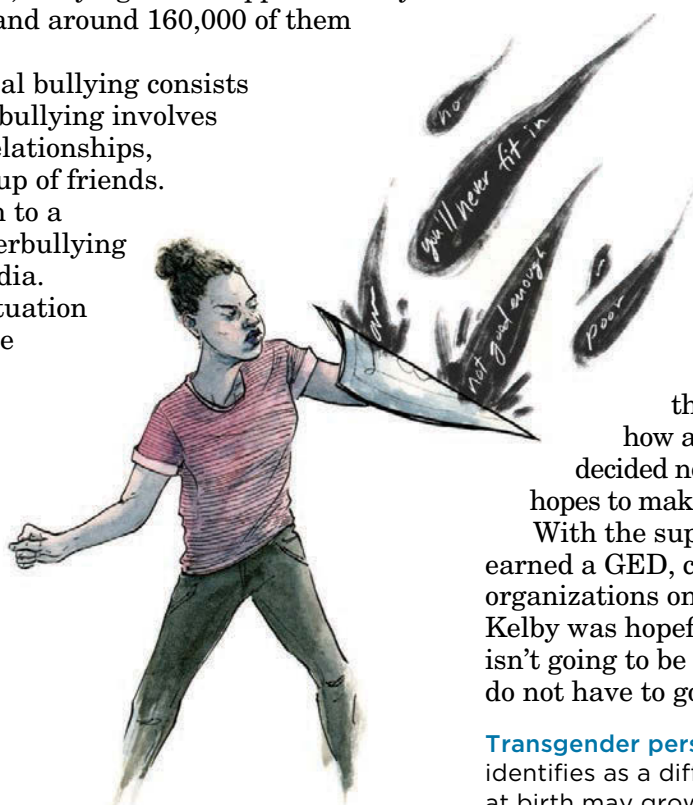
In 8th grade, Kelby Johnson came out as lesbian. "In our little town of Tuttle, OK, that was a dangerous thing to do," said Kelby. The bullying started with cruel comments and notes in school, but got much worse.

One day, six older boys from the community actually hit Kelby with their car while yelling insults out the window. The bullying got so bad that Kelby's father decided changing schools was the best option. "No student should have to live through what I went through."

Bullying has a huge impact on schools everywhere. According to the National Education Association, bullying effects approximately 13 million U.S. students every year, and around 160,000 of them stay home from school because of it.

Bullying takes many forms. Verbal bullying consists of teasing/name calling, while social bullying involves damaging a person's reputation or relationships, such as leaving someone out of a group of friends. Physical bullying is intentional harm to a person's body or belongings, and cyberbullying is harassment by means of social media. Cyberbullying makes the bullying situation more intense, because now bullies are able to harass victims everywhere.

Some students are at a higher risk for being bullied, such as disabled or LGBTQ youth (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer), like Kelby. Victims of bullying are more likely to struggle with depression and anxiety, as well as have health complaints and decreased academic achievement scores. They become more likely to drop out of school or miss classes. "I feel like I belong somewhere else," said Alex Libby, age 12, in the 2012 documentary *Bully*.



There isn't just one reason bullying happens. Some students bully because they were raised where rules weren't enforced, or because they were bullied themselves. A teen girl who wished to remain anonymous stated she excluded another student because her friends were doing it.

Kids, adults and organizations are all trying to find ways to fight bullying. If you want to help, Canadian organization Erase Bullying suggests, "Report bullying

to someone you trust (like a teacher, principal, your parents, etc.). If the bullying is serious or you think someone's life or safety is at risk, report it to the police." Projects like the documentary *Bully* work to prevent bullying in schools. And on March 3, 2014, students from Minnesota and activists rallied in support of an anti-bullying bill that was passed in April.

In August 2014, Trisha Prabhu, a 13-year-old from Chicago, won a Google science fair award for her idea to reduce cyberbullying. Since most cyberbullying comments are impulsive, Trisha developed a program that would pop up and prompt a commenter to think about how a statement would affect someone. In her project, the user decided not to leave the comment 93.43 percent of the time. She hopes to make it into a real product that can help curb cyberbullying.

With the support of loving parents, Kelby Johnson eventually earned a GED, came out as **transgender** and began to work with various organizations on a national level to end bullying. In a 2012 interview Kelby was hopeful: "We can be the generation to stand up and say, 'This isn't going to be us. We're going to put a stop to this now so our children do not have to go through this.'"

Transgender person: Someone who was assigned one sex at birth but identifies as a different gender; for example, a baby said to be female at birth may grow up to identify as male, vice versa or otherwise.



THE FREEDOM THEATRE

Meet... Sarah from Palestine

Name: Sarah Mohammad Moawya

Age: 6

Lives In: Jenin refugee camp
in the occupied West Bank.

Languages Spoken: Arabic, English

Parents' Jobs: Her mother works for the
United Nations Relief and Works Agency
(UNRWA) and her father works at
The Freedom Theatre

Favorite Food: Lentil soup

Favorite Subject in School: Science

Favorite Animal: Rabbit

Favorite Activity: Drawing

Favorite Flower: Jasmine flower

**What She Wants to Be When
She Grows Up:** A doctor

A Little About My Home: My family is
originally from Zereen village close to
Haifa in what is today Israel. They were
among the around 750,000 Palestinians
who had to leave their homes at the time
when Israel was created in 1948. The
camp is run by the United Nations and
they are in charge of the schools, health
centers, etc.



PEREALBIAC/FILICKR

Occupied Palestine at a Glance

Population: 4.6 million Palestinians
and 564,000 Israeli settlers

Languages Spoken: Arabic,
Hebrew, English

Major Religions: Islam, Christianity
and Judaism

Learn More: The occupied Palestinian
territories of the West Bank and Gaza
are located within the state of Israel that
was created in 1948. Palestinians refer to
this time as al-Nakbah, or "the catastro-
phe," since the hundreds of thousands
who were driven from their homes have
still not been able to return.

15 billion

The number of dollars that Brazil expects to spend
to host the 2016 Summer Olympics. Source: *The Guardian*

nation&world

Childhood Under Attack in Gaza

By KATIE SCHLECHTER, IndyKids Staff



ANDLUN/FILICKR

After the strikes in 2009, Gaza Community Mental Health Programme (GCMHP) found that 75 percent of kids older than six showed one or more symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

On August 26, 2014, the
United Nations Office
for the Coordination of
Humanitarian Affairs estimated
that Israel's attack of the Gaza
strip that began on July 8 killed
2,076 Palestinians, including 1,454
civilians (70 percent), of whom 491
are children (24 percent). On the
Israeli side, 64 soldiers and five

civilians, including one
child, have been killed.

Switzerland-based
organization Defence for
Children International
called for "an immediate
end to Israeli attacks that
target civilian structures
and violate international
humanitarian law."

This is not the first
time that Gazans have
experienced bombardments
by the Israeli Defense
Forces. According to Israeli
human rights organization
B'Tselem, during similar

operations in Gaza in 2009 and 2012,
Israeli military forces killed 1,565
Palestinians, including 375 children.

The damage doesn't end when the
bombing stops. The U.N. estimates
that 400,000 children in Gaza are in
need of psychological treatment due to
the trauma of the lengthy attacks.

After the strikes in 2009,

Gaza Community Mental Health
Programme (GCMHP) found that
75 percent of kids older than six
showed one or more symptoms of
post-traumatic stress disorder. In
an interview with the *Guardian*,
Psychologist Hasan Zeyada who
works with the GCMHP said,
"The majority of children suffer
many psychological and social
consequences. Insecurity and
feelings of helplessness and
powerlessness are overwhelming."

Since the latest attacks these
symptoms will probably be worse,
predicts Zeyada. "Any child above
six years old has now been exposed
to three wars. We are talking
about a traumatized generation.
They will perceive the world as
dangerous, and they will have a lot
of frustration and anger."

Post-traumatic stress disorder:
a person can experience this condition
of mental and emotional stress resulting
from one or more shocking events.
Also known as PTSD.

Rising Evictions Ahead of 2016 Rio Olympics

By MATTHEW DOTY, age 11



From June 12 to July 13, 2014, Brazil hosted the
FIFA World Cup, inspiring nation-wide protests
against evictions and for workers' rights. Now, as
the country prepares to host the 2016 Olympics, more
issues have come up. In order to build stadiums and
other facilities, the Brazilian government is once again
evicting thousands of low-income residents who live in
Rio de Janeiro, the site of the games. Brazil expects to
spend more than \$15 billion preparing for the Olympics.

The poorest 34 percent of Brazilians receive less
than 1.2 percent of the nation's income. Many low-
income families in urban areas live in shanty towns
called favelas. Houses in the favelas were often built
on abandoned property by people who came to the city
trying to find work.

"Sometimes government employees come and spray-
paint numbers on their houses so people come home
from work to find out that their house has been marked
for eviction," says Theresa Williamson from Rio on
Watch, an organization that serves as a voice for favela
residents. "Other times people are intimidated into
signing away their homes."



NINJA MEDIA/FILICKR

The poorest 34 percent of Brazilians receive less than 1.2 percent of the nation's income.

Since houses in the favelas were built without
permits, the government says it is justified to move the
residents to safer places. While Favela residents are
almost always paid for their houses, the government
is providing less than \$200 per month in rent for each
evicted resident. This payment is far less than the
average cost of a one-bedroom apartment in even the
most affordable neighborhoods, and residents are often
moved far from their work.

Jeane Tomas, a former favela resident, says, "There
is this frustration to have worked so hard, dreamed so
much, to leave everything behind."

indykids!

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WHAT IS INDYKIDS?

IndyKids is a free newspaper, website and teaching tool that aims to
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perspective and to inspire in children a passion for social justice and
learning. **IndyKids** is funded through donations and grants.

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HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Just contact **IndyKids**! Adults and kids can write articles,
take photos, contribute artwork and help distribute the paper.

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Where in the World?

All the places listed below are mentioned in this issue. Can you match them with their general location on the world map at right? Answers are at the bottom of this page.

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| a) Gaza ____ | f) Antarctica ____ |
| b) Rio de Janeiro ____ | g) Honduras ____ |
| c) Egypt ____ | h) Dominican Republic ____ |
| d) Detroit ____ | |
| e) Ferguson ____ | |



Al Jazeera Journalists Convicted in Egypt

By DAPHNE OKUYAMA, age 10



On June 23, 2014, *Al Jazeera* journalists Peter Greste, Mohamed Fahmy and Baher Mohammed were sentenced to seven to 10 years in prison by the Egyptian government. They were convicted of endangering national security and conspiring with the banned **Muslim Brotherhood** to broadcast false news. *Al Jazeera* demands an immediate release of their journalists.

At the hearing, the prosecution argued that the journalists had inaccurately covered a protest in Cairo's Tahrir Square by using "selective filming." However, the prosecution tried to prove they were guilty by using evidence that had no clear connection to the case. For example, they played a news report made while none of the accused were in Egypt, footage of sheep, a pop music video by the Australian singer Gotye and several other recordings that had nothing to do with Egyptian political issues.

Mohamed Lotfy, executive director of the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms, observed the entire trial for Amnesty International. In response



STEVE RHODES

According to Amnesty International, the Egyptian government claims that *Al Jazeera* is supporting the rights of the Muslim Brotherhood, and Egypt is doing this to punish the news agency.

rights of the Muslim Brotherhood, and are therefore convicting the journalists to punish the news agency.

At a press conference in Australia, Greste's parents stated, "We are absolutely determined and committed to continue this battle until Peter and his colleagues are all out of prison. The campaign for media freedom and free speech must never end."

Muslim Brotherhood: the political party that came to power in Egypt after the 2011 revolution, and was overthrown in July 2013 and outlawed in December 2013.

to the ruling, he said, "It's a warning to all journalists that they could one day face a similar trial and conviction simply for carrying out their official duties."

According to Amnesty International, the Egyptian government claims that *Al Jazeera* is supporting the

Scientists Discover Massive Underground Water Reservoir

By KALANI CHEN-HAYES, age 11



Northwestern University geophysicist Steve Jacobsen and University of New Mexico seismologist Brandon Schmandt recently discovered an underground water reservoir that could contain three times the amount of water in all of Earth's oceans. The water is stored 400 miles deep in Earth's mantle rock, and may be a part of how our planet sustains water on its surface.

The water is trapped in a layer of crystal-like minerals called ringwoodite which acts as a giant sponge. Researchers used seismometers to measure the seismic waves created by earthquakes moving through the Earth's interior. The way the waves moved through the ringwoodite indicated that it held water. Over time and under certain conditions, the water can ooze up onto the Earth's surface.

The discovery provides new clues in the origins of Earth's water. Scientists previously theorized that water was formed when comets collided with Earth. It was also thought that water formed when vapor from erupting volcanoes condensed and fell as rain.

"I think we are finally seeing evidence for a whole-Earth water cycle, which may help explain the vast amount of liquid water on the surface of our habitable



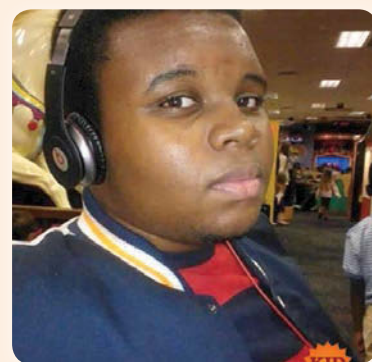
WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Scientists previously theorized that water was formed when comets collided with Earth.

planet," said Jacobsen. "Scientists have been looking for this missing deep water for decades."

Jacobsen's study is the first to show that ringwoodite can act as a water reservoir deep below the Earth's surface. "We should be grateful for this deep reservoir," says Jacobsen. "If it wasn't there, it would be on the surface of the Earth, and mountaintops would be the only land poking out."

newsbriefs



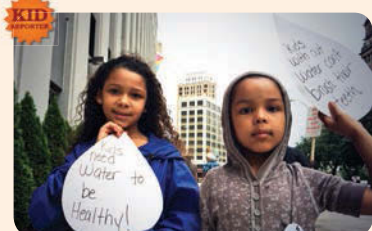
FACEBOOK

Michael Brown and the Ferguson Protests

By DAPHNE OKUYAMA, age 10

On August 9, 2014, in Ferguson, MO, Michael Brown, an unarmed black teen, was shot to death by a white police officer, Darren Wilson. Police say he was trying to get the weapon out of the officer's hand, but witnesses say that he had his hands up in the air. Ferguson community members organized large protests on the street since the shooting. They criticized police for using too much force, including tear gas and rubber bullets, to stop the protests.

Detroit Citizens: Where's Our Water?



JUSTINE WEDES (DETROITWATERBRIGADE.ORG)

By MARIANNE NACANAYNAY, age 12

Tap water is being shut off in Detroit due to overdue water bills, threatening low-income families. Though some large companies owe the Detroit Water Department millions of dollars, their water has not been shut off. Instead, the department is targeting families. The U.N. stated shut-offs violate "the human right to water," and that they only have the right to shut off water when customers can pay, but refuse.

Obama Orders Airstrikes in Iraq



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

By ALEJANDRA PAULINO, age 12, and IndyKids Staff

In August 2014, President Obama became the fourth U.S. president in a row to order military action in Iraq. He authorized airstrikes against the militant group Islamic State (ISIS) to protect the U.S. personnel and religious minorities in the northern Kurdish region. While Obama originally claimed the airstrikes were necessary for humanitarian purposes, critics say that he is using this as an excuse to take military action in the region.

the CHILD MIGRANT CRISIS

REPORTER43TAMAILIPAS



The number of unaccompanied children traveling to the United States without an adult guardian has doubled since last year.

CRISIS AT THE BORDER

By ALEJANDRA PAULINO, age 12



Since October 2013, more than 63,000 unaccompanied children have arrived at the U.S.-Mexico border, double the number from the same period last year. Many of them have come from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras to reunite with family in the United States or escape violence in their countries. In June, President Obama declared it “an urgent humanitarian situation.”

Waiting to find out if they’ll be able to stay in the United States, many of these children are being held in overcrowded detention centers in border states like Texas, where they sleep on tiny blue mattresses covered in plastic. These facilities have been called “hieleras” or “freezers” because of how cold they are inside. Eleven-year-old Sixta, who traveled to the border with her sister from Honduras and was kept in such a facility, told reporters: “I suffered a lot in *la hielera*... I still wake up crying thinking I’m there.” Some children have gotten ill from the food they are given. Others say they’ve been verbally and physically abused by U.S. border officials. A Guatemalan child named Jose Miguel said agents kicked him and his cellmates when they were counting the children at night.

A 2008 law states that children from countries that do not directly border the United States must be allowed an immigration hearing to determine if they would be in danger if they returned home. Many of the new arrivals may be eligible for **refugee** status if they can establish that they fear violence in their home country, according to the U.N. Refugee Agency.

Some people are against granting the children refugee status. In July, a group of protesters in California blocked a bus filled with undocumented children and held up signs that said “return to sender.” Enrique Morones, director of the advocacy group Border Angels responded in an interview with *Democracy Now!*: “A society is judged on how we treat our children, and what we witnessed that day was the worst of the American spirit.”

ENCARNI PINDADO



Migrants waiting for the freight train in the south of Mexico. This child was traveling with her mother and two brothers. They said they were trying to escape the violence in Honduras.

Despite anti-immigrant protests, many activists and communities have voiced their support for the child migrants.



LIGHT BRIGADING

PAST HISTORY AND PRESENT REALITIES: VIOLENCE AND POVERTY IN CENTRAL AMERICA

By JON TUPAS and KATIE SCHLECHTER, *IndyKids* Staff

The surge in undocumented child migrants entering the United States is linked to the economic and social conditions in their home countries. Most of these migrant children are fleeing extreme poverty and violence related to gang activity, police corruption and the drug trade.

A study by the U.N. Refugee Agency showed that 58 percent of the child migrants they interviewed were “forcibly **displaced**” because they suffered or faced harms that indicated a potential or actual need for international protection.”

However, activists, journalists and historians claim that the current situation can be traced back to U.S. **foreign policy** during the 1980s and earlier. “Every major wave of Latino migration has been very directly connected to actions taken by the United States in Latin America to either further the country’s economic or military interests,” said Eduardo Lopez, co-director of the documentary film, *Harvest of Empire*.

During the 1980s, a wave of socialist movements passed through the region. During this time, the United States was committed to fighting any political movements related to socialism or communism. To do so, they gave money to conservative governments and helped to train their military forces in multiple countries, including El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, to squash the movements. Civil wars between socialist groups and U.S.-supported military governments in El Salvador and Guatemala alone resulted in the death or disappearance of more than 280,000 people.

This complex history plays a large role in the current situation of poverty and violence in these countries. “I believe that many, many immigrants would prefer to stay in their home country,” Lopez said. “But again, the conditions that U.S. corporations and U.S. military make in Latin America make that [option] impossible.”

BORDER ANGELS



Many kids have died or been seriously injured hitching rides through Mexico on top of massive freight trains with nicknames like “El tren de la muerte” (The Death Train) or “La Bestia” (The Beast).

PETER HADEN



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Displaced: when a person is forced to leave their home due to violence, economic instability or environmental or climate disasters.

Foreign policy: the way one country economically, politically and diplomatically interacts with another country or region.

Refugee: a person forced to leave their home country to escape for reasons of race, poverty, war, religion and/or violence.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Antarctic Tourism May Harm the Environment

By NYLU AVERY BERNSTAYN, age 9

A new PLOS Biology report reveals that tourism may increase the rate of environmental damage in Antarctica. As Earth's southernmost continent, it is one of the world's most far-off destinations. Though there are no permanent residents there, 35,000 tourists visit annually, which has major impacts on the Antarctic environment. For example, oil or gas from small boats and cruise ships contaminate the water and wildlife. Currently, global changes, like ozone layer depletion, also affect Antarctica, causing polar ice melting.

Are Electronic Cigarettes Really Safer?



LINDSAY FOX/FLICKR

By JULIANNA BERROA, age 12

An electronic cigarette looks like a conventional cigarette with an LED light at the end that lights up when the smoker takes a puff. A processor heats up a liquid usually containing nicotine, turning it into vapor that the user inhales, or "vapes." Some studies suggest that e-cigarettes are safer than tobacco cigarettes. Still, more recent research shows that they contain toxic chemicals, some of which could make it harder for users to fight off bacterial infections.

Monkey See, Monkey Know



MARINO MICULAN

By NANCY RYERSON, IndyKids Volunteer

Macaque monkeys are raised by their moms and don't meet their dads, who move around between groups. But when monkeys meet their fathers' children from other mothers, they treat them like relatives, even if they've never been introduced to that side of the family. Researchers hypothesize that monkeys can tell when faces look similar, just like people can.

10.5

The percent of fiction books about humans that featured people of color sent to the Cooperative Children's Book Center at the University of Wisconsin in 2013 Source: We Need Diverse Books

culture&activism

Expand Your World with Diverse Books

By ADEDAYO RHUDAY PERKOVICH, age 10



The #WeNeedDiverseBooks campaign encourages kids to read books by and about people from different backgrounds. It was started in 2014 by authors Ellen Oh and Aisha Saeed who "wanted to address the lack of diverse, non-majority narratives in children's literature." Now leading a team of more than 20, they believe that embracing diversity will lead to acceptance, empathy and equality.

Kathleen T. Horning, director of the Cooperative Children's Book Center at the University of Wisconsin, found that out of the 1,183 fiction books about people that the cooperative received in 2013, 1,059 were about white people, and only 124 (10.5 percent) were about people of color.

"Diverse" is an important word to this campaign. In this case, it means all kinds of people, including Asian, albino, African-American, Hispanic, Native American, LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, Transgendered, Queer) and disabled individuals. According to a report by William J. Hussar and Tabitha M. Bailey, it is estimated that by 2019, approximately 49 percent of students in U.S. public schools will be Latino, black, Asian/Pacific Islander or American Indian.

"Books transmit values," wrote the late award-winning author Walter Dean Myers. "What is the message when some children are not represented in those books? Are we promoting a sense of disconnect between lived reality and what is described on the page?"

This summer, the campaign posted book recommen-



J.D. THOMAS

It is estimated that by 2019, approximately 49 percent of students in U.S. public schools will be Latino, black, Asian/Pacific Islander or American Indian.

dations for kids to read during their vacation. *Akata Witch*, which has been compared to the *Harry Potter* series, features a main character who is albino and lives in Nigeria.

The campaign has become a nonprofit organization that will work with classrooms and host a diversity festival in 2016. #WeNeedDiverseBooks will help kids from all different backgrounds experience being recognized by the whole world.

Cyclists Building Peace

By SADIE PRICE-ELLIOTT, age 12



Cyclists from across the world are building peace with help from a growing community called Warm Showers. While many people decide to travel by plane or car, some choose to see the world by bicycle. Often people who are touring the world by bike need places to stay overnight because campsites and hotels aren't always close by. Warm Showers is a "free worldwide hospitality exchange for touring cyclists." People sign up to host cyclists for the night, and cyclists can sign up to find hosting members along their trip.

Through these exchanges, cultural barriers are broken. In an interview with *IndyKids*, host Donna Price said she's had guests from Belgium, South Korea, China, Hong Kong and the United States.

"People come from different backgrounds, different places, and are hugely different people, but one common thing is that they have all been kind," cyclist Tim Ledlie said.

Some people question how Warm Showers is bridging new relationships and building peace. When a cyclist arrives at a house, they only know of one shared interest with the host: the love of bicycling. As conversation develops over shared meals, hosts and guests begin



VINCENT BURGEON

While many people decide to travel by plane or car, some choose to see the world by bicycle.

to realize how much everyone has in common. Price noted that this experience has helped her see other cultures in a more positive light.

Warm Showers isn't the only traveling community of its kind. Other organizations like Couchsurfing and Be Welcome make hospitality exchanges similar to Warm Showers easier to organize. They are open to all types of travelers, not just cyclists. Although different, these communities have one thing in common: they connect people from all over the world.

Meet IndyKids Reporter, Olivia Minguela



JON TUPAS

By MATTHEW KUE, age 11



Olivia Minguela, age 11, has been a kid reporter for *IndyKids* since January 2014.

Matt: How did you get interested in journalism, and why do you like it?

Olivia: My friends kept on talking about how they wanted to be journalists when they grow up so I gave it a try. My friends helped encourage me to start writing. My friend Sophia, 11, is the one that read over my work, helped me improve and most importantly, introduced me to *IndyKids*. I like journalism because it is fun and it is about expressing yourself. There are so many topics to write about, and you can turn it into your own article.

Can you name some topics you have reported on at *IndyKids*?

“Getting Wild with the Narwhal,” about whales with spiral tusks. “Getting Wild” is

a section about describing different animals and giving facts about them. I like it because I want to be a marine biologist when I grow up. I have also written articles on very serious topics like immigration detainee hunger strikes and Nelson Mandela’s relationship with the United States. They were complex.

Why was writing the Nelson Mandela article complex?

The article was complex because I had to research him and the relationship between the United States and then I had to compare those two. Complex stories challenge me.

Have your parents helped you at all?

My parents gave me encouragement, like “Don’t give up.” They were the ones who helped me write the articles and gave me inspiration, saying things like “Even if things get rough, if you quit, you will regret it in the end.”

Someday, you could be a Marine Educator, just like Melissa Carp

By ADEDAYO RHUDAY PERKOVICH, age 10



Have you ever heard of a marine science educator? At the New York Aquarium, where Melissa Carp works, they strive to help people learn more about aquatic life, and how they can help conserve marine animals.

Adedayo Rhuday Perkovich: Why did you decide to become a marine science educator?

Melissa Carp: I have always loved marine science, but I hadn’t decided to be an educator. I had a lot of jobs that involved marine science, but until the last 15 years, I was not an educator. I had worked at a family shelter, and although I loved some parts of it, it was very stressful. That was when I decided to become a marine science educator.

How did you pursue this career?

I had gotten some training in marine science already, and they gave me a bit more at the aquarium. I love kids, and marine science.

What would you want people to know about your job?

During the school year, I’m teaching school groups, and we have a variety of programs. I also spend some time preparing for summer camp. Then, in the summer we have the camps, and there are also other side programs. I do have fun learning new and interesting facts from co-workers. I also enjoy being around all of the animals.

What’s your favorite part of your job?

I love working with people who I respect, and can learn from. I love sharing my knowledge of marine science with children, and spending so much time with animals. My job also makes me hopeful for the future, because after learning more about the ocean, I can see the good side of people, and how they want to help the planet.

Why is marine science important?

It’s important because oceans play such a critical part in the world, and most people feel foreign to them, or don’t know that much about them. It’s important to help people learn more about the ocean so they can help to conserve it.



JULIE LARSEN MAHER © WCS

Melissa Carp (third from the left) teaching youth about eel and sea life monitoring at the New York Aquarium.

A Midsummer Ballet

By ANA PHELAN, age 10



Last June I performed in the New York City Ballet’s production of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* at the Lincoln Center. It was a two-act ballet based on William Shakespeare’s play with music by Felix Mendelssohn and choreography by George Balanchine. The ballet, like the play, is about Titania and Oberon, the king and queen of the fairies, and how they and other characters influence various humans.

Children from the School of American Ballet in Lincoln Center were chosen by the Children’s Ballet Masters to dance the roles of Oberon’s fairies. The ballet masters are teachers from the New York City Ballet. I was fortunate to be cast as one of the small fairies who performed in both acts.

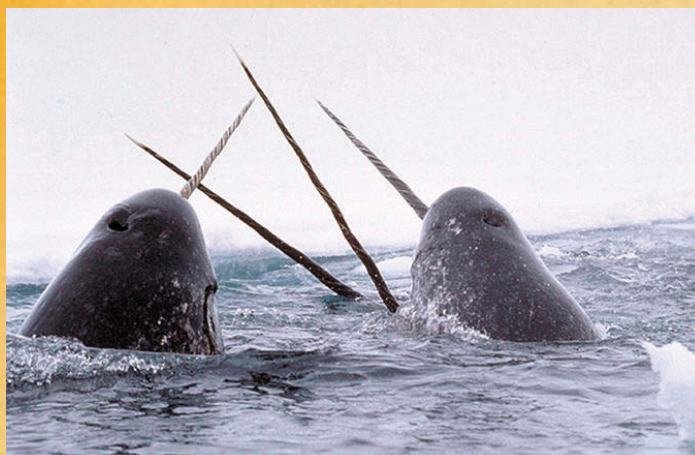
I really loved the scenery in this ballet, because it made the story seem so real. They used fog as an extra surprise, and that made it all very spectacular. The choreography and the music always fit perfectly together, making them extra beautiful, dramatic and funny. For example, you always knew when the fairies were coming when you heard the fast music. The costumes were all unique and fit each dancer and character’s personality well. They all glimmered on the stage and shone bright as the story was told through dance.

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DID YOU KNOW?

- Narwhals live in the Arctic waters surrounding Russia, Norway and Canada.
- Narwhals have been found to dive about a mile deep to look for food, such as Greenland halibut, cod and shrimp.
- A narwhal tusk is actually a tooth that can be as long as 10 feet. However, scientists are not entirely sure of its purpose.
- Adults can weigh between 1,800 and 3,500 pounds and can grow up to 20 feet long!
- Narwhals can live as long as 50 years.

RECIPE: LOCRIO DE SALAMI (DOMINICAN RICE AND SALAMI)

By ALEJANDRA PAULINO, age 12

Try making this delicious, traditional dish from the Dominican Republic.

Ingredients:

- 4 cups of rice
- 1 pound of diced Dominican salami (or Kielbasa if you can't find the salami in a store near you)
- 2 tablespoons of olive or vegetable oil
- 1 cup of tomato sauce
- 1/3 cup of chopped celery

- 1/4 cup of chopped green peppers
- 1 pinch of oregano
- 1 teaspoon of crushed garlic
- 1 teaspoon of chopped cilantro
- 1 pinch of pepper
- Salt according to your taste

Directions:

- Heat oil over high heat in a pan and add salami.
- Add green peppers, oregano, garlic, celery and cilantro. Cook and stir for 1 minute.
- Add tomato sauce and stir to combine well.
- Add 6 cups of water, lower heat to medium and let it boil.
- Season with salt and taste.
- Add rice and stir often to avoid rice from sticking to pot.
- Once the water has evaporated, cover pot with a tight-fitting lid and simmer over very low heat for 35 minutes.
- After 35 minutes, uncover and stir.
- Taste the rice, and if it tastes like it's done, then it's ready to serve. *Buen provecho!*



GETTING WILD WITH THE NARWHAL

By OLIVIA MINGUELA, age 11

Easily recognized by its long, spiral tusk, the narwhal (*Monodon monoceros*) is also known as the Unicorn of the Sea. A narwhal is a whale that has mottled grey skin with a single spiral "tusk" protruding from its upper jaw. The tusk has been highly valued since the Middle Ages, when they were thought to be magical unicorn horns.

Since tusks are worth so much money, there has been an increase in hunting these whales. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature has therefore classified narwhals as a Near Threatened species.

Many people save narwhals by setting up special laws against hunting. For example, there is a limit on the number of narwhals that can be hunted and every tusk obtained must be labeled. It is important to save narwhals because they play an important role in the overall health of the marine environment.



WHO AM I?

By NYLU AVERY BERNSTAYN, age 9



1. I was born on June 27, 1915, in Providence, RI, to Chinese immigrant parents.
2. I grew up in Jackson Heights, Queens, and my father owned restaurants in New York City.
3. I earned my PhD in philosophy from Bryn Mawr College in 1940.
4. I am an author, social activist and feminist, and I have worked in the labor, civil rights and Black Power movements for 75 years.
5. My activism began in Chicago, where I joined the movement for tenants' rights and the Worker's Party. My work focused on mainly marginalized groups, such as women and people of color.
6. I believe that it is by working together in small groups that

positive social change can happen, not in large revolutions where one group of power simply changes position with another.

7. In 1992, my husband and I founded Detroit Summer, a community movement bringing together races, cultures and ages to rebuild Detroit.

8. I am 99 years old, and I recently published a book called *The Next American Revolution: Sustainable Activism for the Twenty-First Century*.



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